

**SECRET**

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SHALE AND PEAT ENTERPRISES  
IMPROVE WORKING METHODS

INNOVATIONS SPEED WORKING CAPITAL TURNOVER - Sovetskaya Estoniya, No 140,  
16 Jun 49

Workers at the "Kokhtla" Shale Combine are trying to improve operating efficiency and increase production. Until recently, the retort furnaces at the shale-processing plant were fed by hand. An innovation allowing the direct feeding from carts has eliminated this labor-consuming manual operation. Workers have had much trouble in regulating the temperatures of the retorts -- it was absolutely impossible to obtain the necessary temperature. Insulation of the retorts has solved this problem. The use of scales in the processing plant has decreased the consumption of shale and increased the output of shale oil by 18.4 to 21.6 percent.

These and similar measures have allowed the plant to accelerate the turnover of working capital. In 1948, the combine's capital turned over 5.66 times and the period for the turnover of one ruble was 53.6 days. In the first quarter of this year, the turnover was increased to 7.76 times and the period for the turnover of one ruble was lowered to 46.4 days.

The combine was also able to fulfill its 6-month plan by 21 May.

ELECTRIC PEAT MACHINE AIDS INDUSTRY -- Leningradskaya Pravda, No 146, 23 Jun 49

The Pustoshenskii Peat Enterprise of the Shatura Trust Moscow Oblast, has completed tests of self-propelled electrical machines for gathering cut and crushed peat. The machines, designed by peat-industry engineers Samkov, Feoktistov, Rozenberg and Lashnev, have passed tests successfully and will be put to regular use. The capacity of the machine is equal to that of the UMF-4 which is operated from an STZ-NATI tractor.

With the new machine, peat gathering will not require the use of liquid fuel, tractors or internal combustion engines. Peat can be gathered on dry windy days, the most favorable for this work, when previously, peat enterprises had to suspend operations because of the danger of setting fire to the peat from tractor sparks.

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PEAT DEPOSITS DISCOVERED -- Izvestiya, No 145, 22 Jun 49

Rich peat deposits have been discovered in Miorskiy Rayon, Polotsk Oblast. Peat extracting has already begun. This will enable the industrial enterprises of the rayon to be switched from wood to peat fuel this year.

PEAT TRUST COMPLETES 6-MONTH PLAN -- Moskovskiy Bol'shev'k, No 146, 23 Jun 49

The Orekhovo-Zuyevo Peat Trust of the Ministry of Electric Power Plants, fulfilled the 6-month peat-mining plan 101.5 percent on 20 June. The Orekhovo Peat Enterprise was the most successful in the competition, exceeding the plan by 20.2 percent.

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